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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (89-43) DATE: 2/23/67

FROM : SAC SHANKLIN § Info from SAC Rightemyer New Orleans

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY
Dallas, Texas, 11/22/63
AFO

At 11:15 AM this date, Inspector J. R. MALLEY of the Bureau caled and said he had just concluded a 30 minute conference with the Director regarding captioned case, and that the Director had given very definite comments regarding the matter, which he instructed MALLEY to pass on to me immediately.

(1) The Attorney General is trying to get the FBI to go to GARRISON and get what he has on this case. The Director is vehemently opposed to doing this and has taken the position that it will just give GARRISON an opportunity to dump his fiasco on the FBI.

(2) The Director was particularly aggravated at GARRISON's comment to the effect that five men in his office did more in three months than 5,000 Federal investigators did in three years. He inquired of MALLEY as to the number of Agents New Orleans had on the assassination special. MALLEY told him 30. I ascertained the number actually used and I called him at the first opportunity.

(3) MALLEY said the fact that RAY BECK, former Special Agent, was working for the District Attorney's office was brought to his attention by someone in the Bureau, not the Director. I told him we had interviewed him back in early January, and that the result of that interview was in an airtel captioned as above dated 1/4/67. I further told him that about a month ago, RAY BECK left the DA's office and is now employed by WILLARD ROBERTSON, a Volks Wagon distributor in New Orleans. I mentioned to MALLEY that ROBERTSON is a close social acquaintance of GARRISON and is reported to be his financial backer. ROBERTSON is reported to be a multi-millionaire. MALLEY wants this information woven into the next teletype we send out. He wants to know if RAY BECK has worked or is now working on this matter.

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(2)

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(4) The Director specifically instructed, "Give nothing to USA LACOUR in New Orleans. Tell him that everything is being sent direct to the Attorney General's office. By way of explanation, for some unknown reason VINCENT, the head of the Criminal Division, who would have a normal interest in this matter, is making numerous requests of the Bureau. Also, BAREFOOT SANDERS, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Division, is making numerous requests; therefore, the Bureau has adopted the policy to give everything direct to the Attorney General.

(5) Give GARRISON nothing.

(6) Tell RIGHTMYER that he wants him and all personnel in New Orleans to keep their big mouths shut.

(7) New Orleans should, as best they can, be aware of what GARRISON is doing without revealing the FBI's interest.

(8) For example, New Orleans handled the autopsy report in an outstanding fashion. They were able to ascertain the date and call the Bureau without GARRISON being aware of that fact.

(9) I discussed the matter of accepting information which was volunteered to us. MALLEY said that we could accept information volunteered to us, but we must be most careful not to convey the idea that we are soliciting information from the person offering us the information.

(10) Instruct New Orleans to make a complete review of all investigation relating to OSWALD's activities in New Orleans. The Director said, "I don't want to be hit by anyone like HOSTY's. Find the loopholes so we can plug them." MALLEY mentioned that as best he could recall, the New Orleans investigation shows there were possibly two months that OSWALD was in New Orleans and that we did not ascertain what he was doing during those two months except insofar as data furnished by his wife, MARINA OSWALD.

MALLEY said he did not construe this instruction of the Director to mean that we should conduct any investigation, but merely to find and locate any loopholes so that the matters could be further considered.